

Rand, McNally & Co.'s

NEW MAP AND GUIDE

— TO THE —



BLACK HILLS,



SHOWING

Most Direct Railroad & Wagon Routes,

— AND —

ROUTE OF CUSTER'S EXPEDITION.

BEING ALSO A CORRECT COUNTY MAP

— OF —

Dakota and Nebraska, and Parts of Minnesota,  
Iowa, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming,  
and Montana.



PUBLISHED BY

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1875.

Graff

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VIEW OF TABLE ROCK, SIOUX FALLS,

65 Miles North of Elk Point.

RAND, McNALLY & CO.'S

NEW MAP AND GUIDE

TO THE

# Black Hills

OF DAKOTA.

ILLUSTRATED.

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## INTRODUCTION.

Recognizing a public demand for further information of the country "Beyond the Missouri," we have, at considerable expense, prepared the accompanying map of Dakota, and collated such facts as were at hand, setting forth the advantages of this Territory, so accessible from points in the Northwest. So little has positively been known of the interior of Dakota, that the preparation of a map possessing any claims to accuracy, has been a work attended with so many difficulties, that none have heretofore cared to encounter them. Our compilation was only completed after months of careful research. Having full access to the Government's late and unpublished surveys of the Territories west of the Missouri River, we have had the advantages of reliable data to work from. We are indebted to Capt. Wm. Ludlow, chief topographical engineer of Custer's Expedition, who kindly consented, and did locate for us, both the outward and return routes, as shown. We are under further obligations to Capt. Ludlow, for the correct astronomical positions of Harney's Peak, Crow Peak, Elk Head Mountain, the courses of hitherto undiscovered streams, with their affluents, as well as for the general topography of the Black Hills region, and the various mountain ranges in the vicinity of the route taken by the expedition.

We have not only given a complete map of Dakota, but have added such portions of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and the British Possessions, as will enable the observer to readily determine the exact location of this new El Dorado, and afford material assistance in ascertaining the different approaches thereto.

We have given the county boundaries of only such counties of Dakota as are known to be settled, and are not likely to be changed by the tide of emigration sure to follow, when the inducements offered to the settler are better known.

For reference, we have compiled all the available facts concerning Gen. Custer's late expedition, and present them in convenient form, believing they will be found of much interest to those contemplating a trip to the Black Hills.

Brevet Major General G. A. Custer's preliminary report of his expedition is given in full, and being an official document, fittingly finds a place in these pages. A no less interesting paper is Major Geo. A. Forsyth's letter to Lieut.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan, accompanied by extracts from the Major's diary. We regret that the journal complete could not be obtained for publication, but sufficient evidence is given to fully substantiate the existence of gold in the vicinity of the Black Hills, and in such quantities as to induce miners and others to seek it, as soon as the Territory is open for settlement.

Our illustrations are engraved from photographs taken by artists accompanying the expedition, and show that the country abounds in scenery as wild and varied as that of the Rocky Mountain range, of which the Black Hills are but an isolated portion.

As much controversy exists concerning the best route to the Black Hills, we refrain from making any comments thereon, but simply recapitulate all that has been urged in favor of each.

RAND, McNALLY & CO.,  
PUBLISHERS.



View of Agnes Park, Black Hills.

## THE BLACK HILLS.

The Order under which Gen. Custer's Expedition  
Proceeded.HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,  
CHICAGO, May 15, 1874. }*Brigadier General A. H. Terry, Commanding Department of Dakota,  
St. Paul, Minn. :*

GENERAL: The Lieutenant-General Commanding directs that you send a column of nine or ten companies of the Seventh Cavalry, under the command of Lieut.-Col. G. A. Custer, to examine the country in and about the North Fork of the Cheyenne, known on the map as the Belle Fourche; also, the country south of it, in the vicinity of Bear Butte, especially south and west of Bear Butte, commonly designated as the Black Hills on the map.

It would be agreeable to the Lieutenant-General if you could send an engineer officer to determine the latitude and longitude of Bear Butte, or any other well-marked feature in the Black Hills, which would serve as a good point of reference for that unknown section of country.

For the accomplishment of this purpose, you are authorized to employ eighty citizen-teamsters, for six weeks or two months, at the rate of \$30 per month, as well as two or three wagon masters, and one or two guides, at usual rates of hire.

Col. Custer should be given full latitude to return, in case he found the performance of this duty unsafe, or the country impracticable for the movement of his column.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,  
Assistant Adjutant General.





## THE BLACK HILLS.

**The Work of the Recent Governmental Expedition—Preliminary Report by Gen. Custer—A Fine Agricultural and Stock-Raising Region—The General feels satisfied that Gold can be obtained there "in Satisfactory Quantities."**

The following preliminary report by Gen. Custer to the War Department, detailing the work of the Black Hills Expedition, has just been published:

FORT ABRAHAM LINCOLN, Dakota, Sept. 8, 1874.

*The Asst. Adjutant-General, Department of Dakota,*  
ST. PAUL, MINN.

SIR—In obedience to your telegraphic instructions, directing me to forward a brief summary of the operations of the "Black Hills Expedition," I have the honor to submit the following

### PRELIMINARY REPORT,

reserving all details for my formal report, which will be submitted as soon as a map of the country explored can be prepared.

The orders under which the expedition was organized directed me to reconnoitre the route from this post to Bear Butte in the Black Hills, and to explore the country south, southeast, and southwest of that point.

To perform this duty I had ten companies of the Seventh Cavalry, two companies of infantry, a detachment of Indian scouts, a battery of Gatling guns, and a supply train of 100 wagons, the whole force numbering about 1,000 men. The absence of the expedition from this post was limited by orders to sixty days.

On the 2nd of July the expedition left Fort Lincoln and began its march to the Black Hills.

Although we soon entered a country about which nothing definite was known, our marches day by day were made without encountering serious obstacles, and the route we pursued, while not a direct one between Fort Lincoln and Bear Butte, might readily have been made so. The country passed over was such that our wagon-train usually moved in four columns. Much of the country between Fort Lincoln and Bear Butte, is excellent for grazing purposes, and a portion at least might be made valuable for purposes of agriculture, while no inconsiderable portion is of the inferior quality often met with on the plains.

### PRACTICABLE WAGON ROUTES

could be found in almost any desired direction. With the statement that the country passed over before reaching the Black Hills presented the usual varied appearance to be observed upon almost any extended portion of the plains, I omit further reference to that portion of our route until

submitting my final report. Instead of directing our march towards Bear Butte, I bore further to the west, aiming to strike the Black Hills near their northwestern extremity.



View of Custer's Park and Wagon Train in the Black Hills.

On the 18th of July we reached the Belle Fourche, and encamped for one day. Crossing this river without difficulty, we at once began ascending the outlying ranges which terminate the Black Hills on the northwest. From the hour of crossing, the character of the country began to rapidly improve in almost every important particular. Grass became abundant and fresh, wood plentiful, and water clear and comparatively pure. No opening through the high ridges of hills to our left being discernible, we skirted the outer base of the hills until we reached a high peak known on the map as Inyan Kara, and located on the western boundary of the Hills, almost opposite the centre of the latter. Here I decided to alter our course, turn towards the east, and seek a route across the high ranges in our front and enter the region to be explored. My Indian guides assured me the route was impracticable for horsemen, let alone for wagons.

**DISREGARDING THEIR ADVICE,**

however, the command pushed forward before daylight, and by night had accomplished a very satisfactory march in an almost due east direction. That night we encamped in Floral Valley, a title unanimously conceded to be appropriate to the valley in which we found ourselves from the many and beautiful varieties of flowers found in bloom. We were now in a portion of the country where we found everything essential to the comfort of the command,—wood, water, and grass in abundance of the finest quality. The stream running through Floral Valley had its source east of us. We followed up its valley until, by an ascent so gradual as scarcely to be perceptible, we found ourselves upon the crest of the range bounding the interior of the Black Hills. A very little examination enabled us to find a corresponding water-course whose source was located near that of Floral Valley Creek, but the direction of whose current was from the west towards the east. Following this valley, the stream of which I named Castle Creek, we found not only an easy but a

**MOST BEAUTIFUL AND INVITING ROUTE**

into the very heart of the Black Hills. With little or no delay, except such as was actually necessary to examine the country along our route, we continued our march until we reached the base of Harney's Peak, where I de'etermined to halt a few days and devote the interval to as careful exploration as was practicable. Parties were sent out in all directions, and a practicable route was explored entirely through the southern boundary of the Black Hills to within less than 100 miles of Fort Laramie. Attempts were made to find a gap leading through the Hills in an easterly direction, but without success. All the water-courses in that direction which were examined terminated in impassable canons. The interior of the Black Hills was found to consist of a succession of ridges and valleys, the latter producing a pasturage of great variety and of such fresh luxuriance as I have never seen surpassed. No finer stock region can probably be found in any portion of our country. Nor is the grazing confined to the valleys and water-courses. Far up to the timbered crests of the Hills we found a plentiful supply of nutritious grass. Every examination of the soil revealed a depth and richness which, coupled with the frequent showers with which that region is blessed, render the latter a

**Most Desirable One for Purposes of Agriculture.**

We found wild fruits, such as currants, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and junberries, not only in wonderful profusion, but frequently the wild berry was of larger size and of more delicious flavor than the domestic species cultivated with such care in some of the States. The timber found consisted of many varieties, principally, however, of pine, oak, and elm. The pine is of suitable dimensions for being worked into lumber, and is met with in abundance on every hillside.

The streams of water are very favorably adapted for employment as water-power, usually having considerable fall and rapidity of current, with no evidence of being subjected to freshets.

Building stone of handsome appearance and durable character can be obtained in almost inexhaustible quantities. So far as we were able to judge the winter is neither severe nor long, nor the snow-fall great. Indians assured me that the grass in the Black Hills was fresh and green early in March. I believe cattle would not only find abundant feed in mid-winter, but that they would require no shelter beyond that to be derived in well-protected valleys. The expedition being one of exploration, the object being merely to make a reconnoissance of the country, and the time being so limited, we were able to devote but a brief time to any one locality. I regret that this preliminary report must prove

**COMPARATIVELY BARREN**

of certain information which it might reasonably be expected to contain—in explanation of which I would state that I have relied upon the re-

ports of those whose special work it has been to acquire all available information in regard to the character and resources of the country explored. I have received reports, thus far, but from two of the gentlemen who were associated with me during the expedition; the brief time which has elapsed since the return of the expedition furnishing, no doubt, a satisfactory explanation of the delay in the rendition of these reports. Prof. N. H. Winchell has forwarded a preliminary report on the geology of the country explored. Mr. Grinnell, of Yale College, has been able to render a preliminary report, noticing the principal features of the country regarding its zoology and paleontology. These I append, and invite for them the attention of the Department commander. Full and detailed reports from Prof. Winchell and Mr. Grinnell, the former having devoted considerable attention to the geology of the country, also a report from Assistant Surgeon J. W. Williams, U. S. Army, upon the botany of the Black Hills, will be submitted with my formal report. With this explanation of the meagre character of this preliminary report, I will now make a brief reference to the mineral discoveries.

Iron of a good quality was found at various places, and in great quantities. Inexhaustible beds of gypsum, inclose, if not underlie, the Black Hills. Evidences of plumbago were also discovered, as well as indications of silver. Coal was found along our route going to and returning from the Black Hills.

The discovery, however, of greatest importance, and to which I make special reference,

### **WAS THAT OF GOLD.**

It will be understood that within the limits of the Black Hills we were almost constantly marching, never halting at any one point for a longer period than one day, except one, and that was near Harney's Peak, where we remained five days, most of the command, however, being employed in operations during the halt. From this it will be seen that no satisfactory or conclusive examination of the country could be made regarding its mineral deposits. Enough, however, was determined to establish the fact that gold is distributed throughout an extensive area within the Black Hills. Gold was obtained in numerous localities in what are termed gulches. No discoveries, so far as I am aware, were made of gold deposits in quartz, although there is every reason to believe that a more thorough and extended search would have discovered it. No large nuggets were found; the examination, however, showed that a very even, if not a very rich distribution of gold is to be found throughout entire valleys. In other words, the "prospecting" showed that while the miner may not in one painful of earth find nuggets of large size, or deposits of astonishing richness, to be followed by days and weeks of unrewarded labor, he may reasonably expect in certain localities to realize from every painful of earth a handsome return for his labor.

While I feel satisfied that gold in satisfactory quantities can be obtained in the Black Hills, yet the hasty examination we were forced to make did not enable us to determine in any satisfactory degree the richness or extent of the gold deposits in that region. Seeking for gold was not one of the objects of the expedition, consequently we were but illy prepared to institute or successfully prosecute a search for it, even after we became aware of its existence in the country.

I regret that Prof. N. H. Winchell, who accompanied the expedition as geologist, and who labored industriously, and, I believe, efficiently, to discharge his duties regarding other points, should have permitted what I cannot but believe was a bit of professional pique to stand between him and the determination of a very important fact: viz., the existence of gold in the Black Hills. Prof. Winchell, as geologist of the expedition, no doubt felt that all questions pertaining to mineral discoveries should be referred to him for final decision—and all questionable points relating to geology were so referred. But when gold was discovered, as it surely was at various points, it was in such form and quantity as to be readily recognized as gold without referring the matter for decision to an expert.

The specimens I saw, and which scores of officers and other persons of intelligence saw, and which were taken from the earth from time to time near our camps, consisted of small particles of pure gold,

### **EASILY RECOGNIZABLE AS SUCH**

by any person who had ever seen gold before. Had Prof. Winchell not been influenced by the feeling I have attributed to him; had he not waited for some person to bring specimens of the gold to his tent and formally request his professional opinion upon it; but had he, instead, gone—as he might often have done by a walk of a few hundred yards, or at most of a few miles—and examined the places from which the gold had been taken, watched the miners and others while prospecting,—as I and others did,—he would have been qualified by an experience added to a scientific knowledge for which I have the highest respect, to have given an opinion on the matter which would have been entitled to great weight. As it is, he simply says what he might have said without accompanying the expedition, and what every one who did not accompany the expedition can say, viz.: that “He saw none of the gold.” That he did not see it was wholly due to his inaction in the matter, as persons with whom he was brought in contact every day had specimens of the gold in their possession—a fact of which I hardly believe he was ignorant. I regard the discoveries made as

### **EXCEEDINGLY PROMISING.**

At the same time, in view of the widespread attention already directed to the Black Hills by prospective mining companies, I deem it not improper to introduce in this report a word of caution to those who contemplate seeking their fortunes in the gold regions of the Black Hills before a more thorough examination of the country has been made. The area of the entire country embraced within the boundaries of the Black Hills is not very extensive, say 120 miles long and 80 wide. A considerable portion of this is agricultural soil: that which may prove to be rich in minerals will embrace only a portion of the area I have given.

While I regard the gold discoveries as very important and of promising richness, I do not think they have been prosecuted to the extent, or that sufficient information has been obtained concerning them, to warrant an immense influx of gold hunters into that region in advance of a more thorough and deliberate examination. I leave out all consideration of the fact that as yet no one has the legal right to go to that region with a purpose of settlement, as there is no doubt that nearly all our discoveries were made within the limits of the Sioux reservation. Men going to the Black Hills to engage in agricultural or stock-raising pursuits need not fear disappointment.

The country possesses

### **EVERY CHARACTERISTIC AND QUALITY**

calculated to fit it for the home of a dense population. The title of the Indian should be extinguished as soon as practicable. Not that I would recommend that land which was being made useful or necessary to the Indian should be taken away, but it is a mistaken idea that the Indian occupies any portion of the Black Hills to any considerable extent. In much of the country we visited, Indians had not been for years, and in no portion of the interior of this rich region did we find indications of their recent presence in any large numbers.

Their policy regarding the Black Hills is somewhat similar to that of the dog in the manger,—they neither occupy nor make use of the Black Hills, nor are they willing that others should. The Black Hills country is convenient to the Indians in this respect; it is along the northern and southern bases of the Hills that the routes of communication lie, between the hostile camps located in the Powder and Yellowstone River country and the large agencies of semi-hostile, semi-peaceable Indians on the

Missouri River. And it is along these routes that all illicit traffic in arms and ammunition is kept up between the two forces. Young men belonging to the agencies who desire to reap the benefit of the agency system, and at the same time to take part with the hostiles in their wars with the whites, pass and repass over these routes, and when pursued, hide, or take temporary refuge in the Black Hills. We intercepted two parties of this character whose admissions agree with this theory. If the Black Hills were thrown open to settlement,

### **AS THEY OUGHT TO BE,**

or if simply occupied by the military, as they must be at an early day, this illicit traffic in arms and ammunition would be broken up, a barrier would be imposed between the hostile camps and the agencies, and the well-disposed Indians of the latter would be separated from the evil influences and warlike tendencies of the hostiles, and the control of the Government over the Indian Agencies on the Missouri River greatly increased, the result of which in time would be to bring about a satisfactory solution of the Indian question so far as it relates to this section of country.

Returning from the interior of the Black Hills, an outlet was discovered in the northeast angle of the Hills, through which an excellent wagon route was found. From Bear Butte our return march led us west of north until the valley of the "Little Missouri" was reached, and then down that valley, or parallel to it, until near the crossing of the Northern Pacific Railroad, nearly all of which route had never been explored before.

The location of the "Little Missouri" River between the two points referred to was determined as accurately as practicable. The former location, being the result of mere guess-work, had to be changed a distance of over thirty miles.

As I have had occasion to forward several dispatches from various points along our line of march, giving briefly my observations upon the country passed over, I would respectfully invite attention to those for any little details which this hastily-prepared report may lack.

Whenever it is determined by the Government to establish

### **A MILITARY POST**

in or near the Black Hills, no difficulty will be found in selecting a site. I believe, from the hasty examination I was able to give the country, that the demands of the service and the greatest demands generally will be obtained by locating a military post somewhere in the vicinity of Harney's Peak.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. CUSTER,

*Brevet Major-General United States Army.*

## THE BLACK HILLS.

**Gen. Custer's Expedition thereto—Letter from Maj. Forsyth to Gen. Sheridan, with Notes from the Major's Diary—The Country offers Great Inducements to Farmers and Stock-Raisers—Gold will be found in Abundance in the Eastern Hills—"The Scenery Beautiful, Grass Splendid, Water Fine, and Climate Delightful."**

BLACK-HILLS EXPEDITION, }  
Near BEAR BUTTE, Saturday, Aug. 15, 1874. }

*Dear General*—From the heading of the note, you will see that we are out of the Black Hills, near their northeast edge.

Entering near camp dated 15 on Reynolds' route, we worked our way down to Luyan Kara, thence southeast to Harney's Peak, and from there pushed exploring parties down to the South Fork of the Cheyenne River. From Harney's Peak we moved north above the head waters of Bear Creek, when, not finding a good road out of the mountains north of Bear Butte, we took down to the head of Box-Elder Creek, followed it down until the waters sank into the channel, and then left it and pushed directly across the mountains in an easterly direction, and moved north to our present camp.

Following this route on the map, you will see that we have taken a train of over 100 heavily-laden wagons throughout every part of the Black Hills, save in a little portion near Crow Peak.

The fact is, the interior of the Black Hills

### OFFERS SPLENDID INDUCEMENTS

to farmers and stock-raisers of all descriptions. There are fine uplands and beautiful valleys, with good streams, and springs of pure water, and timber, and good building-stone, on nearly all the hills. As there are no indications along the streams of freshets in the spring, I conclude that the snow-fall must be very light indeed during the winter. The climate is delightful during the summer months. Wild fruit thrives in the valleys, the growth of grass is superb, and plentiful showers—even in the dry season—keep it always fresh and palatable.

Our animals, though worked all the time, are in capital condition, and we have only lost two men by sickness since we left Fort Lincoln.

The two miners we have with us tell me that they found "color" in every pan of dirt they washed near Harney's Peak; that the diggings there, in Custer's Gulch, will pay \$10 per day now; that they only had two or three days in which to prospect, as we kept moving so fast, but that, in their opinion, when the eastern hills are rightly prospected,

**Gold will be Found there in Abundance.**

I am inclined to think so, for the very roots of the grass would pan five cents to the pan in our camp near Harney's Peak.

From this point we start for Fort Lincoln, via the bad lands of the Little Missouri, to give Prof. Grinnell a chance at the fossils. We expect to get in on the 31st inst.

Very respectfully and truly yours.

GEO. A. FORSYTH, Major and A. A. D. C.

Lieutenant-General P. H. SHERIDAN, Commanding Military Division of the Missouri.

I enclose extracts from my journal.

F.



## DIARY OF MAJ. GEO. A. FORSYTH.

CAMP No. 14, Thursday, July 16, 1874.

Broke camp at 4.30 a. m. Moved west around a high bluff, sparsely covered with stunted pine trees. Six miles out crossed a deep ravine, and came into the

### VALLEY OF THE LITTLE MISSOURI,

which is about three miles in width on each side of the river. The stream itself is slightly muddy, about sixty feet wide, from two to four feet deep, and easily forded. The water is good for drinking purposes, with possibly a shade of alkali in it. The land lying adjacent to the stream is quite poor; the grass, which only covers the ground sparsely, is of poor quality, and intermixed with sunflowers and cactus. Went down to the river and watered at 3.30 p. m.; then left the river, which here bends sharply to the north, and marched up to a high ridge; crossed a succession of hills, and made a dry camp at 8.30 p. m. The day was very hot, and the march long and tedious. Distance marched, thirty and one-half miles. Direction generally southwest.

CAMP No. 15, Friday, July 17.

Broke camp at 4.45 a. m.; took a southerly direction, which we held all day, marching over a high rolling prairie, with very poor grass, which was badly intermixed with cactus. Encamped at night on a high bluff, over-looking

### THE BAD LANDS,

toward the Black Hills, which are in full view, about twenty-five or thirty miles distant. During the night, had quite a severe wind-storm from the west, which covered everything with dust, and prostrated several of the officers' tents. Very hot during the day. Distance made, twenty miles.

CAMP No. 16, Saturday, July 18.

Crossed the Bad Lands without very much trouble, finding a good road through the clay and sand, and having only one bad ravine to cross, and then kept the crest of a series of hills or divides, until we finally, from the top of the highest one, came down into the Belle Fourche country. After coming into the first valley, where the grass was pretty good, we watered at a ravine, where we found water at the bottom of a dry creek; and when I use the expression "dry creek," I mean a water-course in which there are standing pools of good water, but which is not a flowing stream. Moving forward over a rolling country, of poor, sandy soil, and crossing a succession of low hills, covered with stunted pines and a few scrub oaks, we finally came out on some high hills, covered with slate and sandstone ridges, which overlook

### THE BELLE FOURCHE,

or north fork of the Cheyenne River. Descending these hills, we encamped in the stream, which we found to be about thirty feet in width, of good, pure water, though not as clear or transparent as we had expected. Coming from the plains, we fully appreciated our camp. Wood, principally pine and elm, in any quantity; grazing superb, and water in abundance. Among the hills to-day we found hematite iron ore in great profusion. Distance traveled, seventeen and one-half miles. Direction, southwest.

**CAMP No. 16, Sunday, July 19—10 a. m.**

Commenced raining at 1 a. m., and as there is every prospect of its continuing all day, we will not move until to-morrow. This will give the animals a much needed rest, and enable the men to wash their clothes.

9 p. m.—It rained until four o'clock—was quite cool during the day; built a fire at the entrance of my tent, and read the day through.

**CAMP No. 17, Monday, July 20.**

Broke camp at 4.30 a. m., and, the train having crossed the river the preceding afternoon, we got off in good shape, though the ground was rather heavy. Pushed up on to a high divide, thence down into a small valley, running north and south, though heretofore they have all run east and west. Moved through this valley, in a southerly direction, crossing a deep ravine, in which we found some good water and watered our train; thence through a piece of scrub-oak timber, over a succession of small hills, covered with grass, and across a deep and well-wooded ravine, up over a high rolling country, and finally on to a divide, which we followed for some miles, and from which we had an extended view of the adjacent country.

**THE SIGHT WAS SUPERB.**

We could see away to the north, east and west, as far as the eye could reach. To the north of us, the Bad Lands, with their quaintly-shaped clay and sandstone buttes, skirted by the Belle Fourche River; to the east and west, a succession of hills, covered with fine grass, with here and there a valley slightly wooded with stunted pines and oaks; while, to the south, the Black Hills loomed gravely up, shutting out an extended view in that direction. The Hills being our objective point, we left the divide, and, entering a ravine running in an easterly direction, we pushed on for about a mile, and then turning south, we took up our route through the hills to our present camp, on a dry fork of the Belle Fourche, but with plenty of water in its bed. The country passed over to-day is capable of producing grass and grain in abundance, and we came across wild cherries, black currants and gooseberries. Distance marched, eighteen and one-fourth miles. Direction, southwest.

**CAMP No. 18, Tuesday, July 21.**

Broke camp at 4.30 a. m., and shaped our course in a southeasterly direction, through a gap in the hills, with the intention of making our way through the mountain-range, and, if possible, reaching the park, which, rumor says, exists between the two outside ranges of the hills, or, more strictly speaking, the mountains. Following a round-about road through the hills, and keeping our general direction as we may—for our guides profess to be entirely ignorant of this part of the country—Custer pioneers us through some bad ravines, then over a succession of high hills, and along some elevated ridges. We find most of the hills covered, to within a few yards of the top, with bunch grass; in the summit of nearly all of them, the sandstone in regular layers crops out stark and bare, with here and there a scraggy pine shooting up out of the crevices. Some of the heads of the ravines we cross are filled with scrub oak and pine.

Crossing a pretty little tributary of

**THE REDWATER RIVER,**

whose course through the country we can easily discern, owing to the trees which fringe its banks, we finally enter a valley about eight miles broad by fourteen long, containing good grass, and having some good timber among the hills which skirt it. Passing over, and descending a very high ridge, we come into our present camp, in a dry fork of the Redwater, but with a splendid spring of very cold water, running out of the sandstone ledges which crop out along its banks. Fuel is plenty, grass good, and water in abundance; so we put up our tents, and go to rest, very contented with our march without the aid of guides. Passed a number of sandstone layers on the hills to-day. Some gypsum, and a little

limestone, were also found. Little game met with to-day. Direction, southwest. Distance traveled, fourteen and one-half miles.

**CAMP No. 19, Wednesday, July 22.**

On Inyan Kara Creek, about three miles distant from the mountain of the same name, which is

**ONE OF THE HIGHEST PEAKS**

in the Black Hills. While at breakfast this morning, about 4 a. m., we heard a shot, and, within five minutes, one of the men of Company M, named Ritter, was brought in a prisoner, having shot and mortally wounded another man named Turner, of the same company. Almost at the same time, Dr. Williams announced the death of Private Cunningham, of Company H, by dysentery. The General ordered his body to be brought to our present camp; and, just as we reached here this evening, Private Turner, who was wounded this morning, died also. They were both buried at sunset this evening.

We left camp at 4.45 a. m., and took a southwest course; moved up on to a high table-land of red clay soil, with gypsum cropping out here and there; but, notwithstanding the forbidding aspect of the country, the grass was good, both in quality and quantity. Two miles from camp we crossed a pretty little streamlet, quite well-wooded; then moved steadily forward over a good grazing country, skirting some pine-covered hills on our left, and making for a pass in the mountains, directly in our front, reached our present camp at 3.30 p. m. The march has been quite long, dusty, and very fatiguing. Direction, southwest. Distance made, twenty-four and one-half miles.

**CAMP No. 19, Thursday, July 23.**

Command remained in camp all day, to give the Chief-Engineer an opportunity to

**ASCEND INYAN KARA,**

and take observations. At 5 a. m., Gen. Custer, and a party of five, myself included, started for Inyan Kara, and completed the ascent at 12 m. It was a hard task, and, owing to lowering weather and a smoky atmosphere, we did not get as good a view to the east and south as we wished. However it was a sight well worth seeing, and repaid us for our trouble. The peak is something over 6,000 feet above the level of the sea.

**CAMP No. 20, Friday, July 24.**

On a beautiful little stream, in an exquisite little valley, which we call "Floral Valley," from the profusion of wild flowers which completely cover the ground. We left Camp 19 at 5 a. m., and moved due east, over hill and dale, passing through a beautiful little glen, up a long hill, into a burnt piece of pine woods, across them, and down a fearfully-steep hill, into a little valley, in which was the dry bed of a little water-course. Thence up this valley, five or six miles, to camp. As we came up stream, it began to show signs of water, and pretty soon it was a beautiful, cool, clear stream, which keeps growing larger and larger as we ascend, and the valley keeps growing prettier and prettier, while the neighboring hills are covered with pine, and aspen or poplar. Wild flowers abound in every direction, and our horses

**WADED KNEE-DEEP AMONG THEM.**

There are twenty or twenty-five different varieties, all in full bloom. The grass is good, and vegetation of all sorts luxuriant. We have had a hard day's work, but are more than satisfied. Direction, a little south of east. Distance traveled, eleven and one-half miles.

**CAMP No. 21, Saturday, July 25.**

Still on or near the headwaters of Floral Valley Creek. Moved at 4.30 a. m., directly up the valley, crossing the creek—which kept growing larger

all the time—no less than six times, as it seems to delight in meandering across the valley as often as possible. To-day's march has been the pleasantest I have ever yet made. The whole valley is carpeted with flowers. I have gathered seventeen varieties within twenty square feet. And the views along the valley, as it first widened and then contracted, and then widened again, with the waters of the brook murmuring constantly at our feet, has been exceedingly pleasant and attractive, and especially so when looking back at some of the hot, dusty days along the Little Missouri Valley, and across the Plains. About a mile below our present camp, the stream suddenly stopped flowing, and, upon seeking for the cause, we found that

### **WE HAD REACHED THE HEAD.**

Some six or eight beautiful springs bubbled up, within a radius of three hundred feet, forming at once a stream sufficient to turn a mill, but which twenty miles further down entirely disappeared, by sinking into the sandy soil. Half a mile further up, we came to another spring, upon which we are now encamped. Wood and water are in abundance, but the vast quantity of flowers crowds out the grasses, and the grazing is only fair. We have traveled almost south to-day, and made about twelve miles.

CAMP No. 22, Sunday, July 26.

Broke camp at 4.45 a. m. Traveled up Floral Valley to the top of the range where it begins, passing through some of the most

### **EXQUISITE BITS OF PARK-LIKE SCENERY**

I have ever seen,—little open glades, with clumps of pine, evergreen and aspen, on the low hills into which they ran, being constantly in sight. As we approached the head of the valley, the hills grew smaller and smaller, until they would not average more than fifty feet in height. Upon leaving the crest of the watershed down which ran the creek we had last encamped upon, we found an old Indian trail, which we followed up through a rocky defile, which, after various windings, brought us into another valley somewhat larger than the one we had just left, with a fine stream of water running in just the direction we wished, viz., southeast, and in directly the opposite direction from the stream we had just left. This we followed down to our present camp, which is a very beautiful one, with good water and splendid grass in abundance. Throughout this valley, as far as we have come, there are any quantity of springs, and we begin to find quartz mixed with the sandstone. Just after getting into camp, our Indian scouts, whom we had sent on in advance, having met with signs of Indians, came hurrying back, with the information that there was a

### **SMALL VILLAGE OF SIOUX INDIANS**

encamped about three and one-half miles on the stream below us. Taking the scouts and about fifty men with him, Gen. Custer moved quietly down upon them, and, giving strict orders that they should not be harmed unless they showed fight, sent forward a white flag by one of the interpreters, and following it almost instantly, succeeded in getting into their camp, almost before they knew of our approach. The women and children were very much frightened at our Kee scouts, as the two nations are always at war; but they were soon reassured, and satisfied we did not intend to harm them. With a single exception, all of their men were out hunting, and he, "Slow Bull," a fine-looking and plucky savage, made the best of the situation. The hunters were called in, and finally, One-Stab, the Chief, came also. After a long talk, they agreed to come up to our camp, and stay with us, showing us the country, in return for certain supplies which Gen. Custer offered them. We then left them, and, later in the day, One-Stab and three of his warriors came up after coffee and sugar. Two of the warriors soon made an excuse to go back, and One-Stab and a young warrior awaited the arrival of the train with the supplies. Suspecting from their action that they might be

### PLAYING A DOUBLE GAME,

Gen. Custer ordered some of the Indian scouts to go with them to their camp, and stay there as a sort of guard until they came up the next day; also charging them not to let One-Stab and his warrior out of their sight until they reached the Indian camp. While they were going quietly along, and within sight of our camp, the young Sioux suddenly attempted to wrest the gun of one of the scouts from him. In the struggle the gun was discharged, wounding either the Sioux or his horse, and One-Stab and his young man made off at full speed, followed by the guard. One-Stab was recaptured and brought back, but the young warrior escaped, and when our scouts reached the village, that too had departed, and night having fallen, it was impossible to pursue and overtake them. The whole party consisted of five lodges, six warriors, and twenty-one women and children. Distance marched to-day, fourteen miles.

CAMP No. 22, Monday, July 27.

In camp all day. Four exploring parties out surveying and mapping the country. Miners with the party report

### INDICATIONS OF SILVER

in quartz rock, along the banks of the creek.

CAMP No. 23, Tuesday, July 28.

Broke camp at 4.45 a. m. Moved over a low hill, through a small pine-wood, nearly due east, out on to a high, rolling prairie, surrounded in every direction by high hills, densely covered by pine-woods. This opening was about six miles square, and upon getting to the eastern edge of it we were unable to find an available pass for our train, and so had to partially retrace our steps towards the valley we had just left, coming out again on Castle Creek, about four miles lower down than our last camp was located, encamping a little below where the Indian village had been, and upon a little stream, emptying into Castle Creek, from the south. Distance traveled, ten or twelve miles.

CAMP No. 24, Wednesday, July 29.

Broke camp at 4.45 a. m. Moving on

### AN OLD INDIAN TRAIL,

up the valley through which ran the little tributary to Castle Creek, upon which we encamped last night,—the general direction being a little east of south. This little valley opened out to quite a respectable size soon after leaving camp, and we moved up it about six miles, when it gradually ran into small hills, sparsely covered with pine, which we crossed into a high rolling prairie, covered with fine grass, similar to the one which we attempted to cross yesterday. Adhering to the Indian trail, it led us along over the prairie, through a small valley, across a wooded crest, and then up hill and down dale, over one very fine stream of water, until we finally encamped fourteen and one-half miles beyond our former camp, in a southerly direction. Owing to the number of springs along the route, it was slow work for the train to follow, especially as the pioneers had to build several bridges. The result was, that all the train was not in at 4 a. m., when reveille sounded. Taken all in all, the country passed through to-day

### WAS VERY FINE,

offering many inducements to stock raisers.

CAMP No. 25, Thursday, July 30.

Broke camp at 7 a. m. Moved up the valley in a southwest direction, still following the Indian trail, which led us through the valley, by a fine road, out into an open, park-like country, very beautiful, with vales and natural avenues, in every direction, running between low hills covered with a fine growth of good pine, and with numbers of good springs

in all directions. Grass most abundant and of good quality. Passed near the base of a range of mountains, which hid Harney's Peak from our view. Encamped about 3 p. m., in a fine open country, among a lot of low, wooded hills, with vales opening in all directions, on the bank of a still creek, with plenty of good water in holes, but it is not running water at this season of the year. Distance marched, —.

CAMP No. 25, Friday, July 31.

Command generally remained in camp all day. Four engineering parties sent out in various directions to map the country. I accompanied Gen. Custer, Col. Ludlow, of the Engineers, and three other gentlemen, in an

### EXPEDITION TO HARNEY'S PEAK.

Crossing one range of mountains, we climbed the highest peak in sight, only to discover one still higher, upon climbing which we discovered, somewhat to our surprise, the veritable Harney's Peak, three miles away; towering up some eight hundred feet higher than the one we were then upon. Pushing forward we completed the ascent about 4.30 p. m. It was a hard climb, but the view amply repaid us for our trouble. It was by all means the grandest I had ever seen, and so said my companions in their own behalf. To the east were the almost impenetrable mountains, known as the Black Hills,—ragged, rocky, jagged peaks of solid granite, with here and there a vein of glistening quartz, covered in many instances, almost to their summits, with a dense growth of pine, with now and then an aspen, whose lighter green looked all the brighter by contrast, and forming a solid barrier between us and the great plains, which, like a dead sea, stretched away to the east, as far as the eye could reach. By the aid of a glass, we could trace the course of the South Fork of the Cheyenne, and the White River,—the trees along their banks marking their course as distinctly as if we saw the water. Far to the west we could trace a range of mountains, which we thought must be the Big Horn, and we could also overlook some of the open country we had just traveled over, while in the north and east, between sixty and eighty miles distant,

### CROW PEAK AND BEAR BUTTE

loomed up like giant sentinels. On the north, we could also see open country of the same character as that we have just passed over, which we intend taking on our way to Crow Peak, which will be our next objective point. After locating the peak and taking its altitude, we drank the health of General Harney out of our canteen of cold coffee—all the fluid we had—though our wishes for his long life were none the less hearty, and began the descent. Picking up our escort about half-way down, we started for camp, which we reached, after various mishaps, at 1 o'clock in the morning, a thoroughly tired but well-satisfied party.

CAMP No. 26, Saturday, Aug. 1.

Moved three and one-half miles down stream for fresh grass. Have a beautiful camp, with abundance of grass, just opposite three beautiful mountains, covered to their summits with pines. Remained in camp, writing letters. Engineer mapping parties out in all directions. Rained very hard from 4 to 7 p. m.

CAMP No. 26, Sunday, Aug. 2.

Mail leaves to-morrow. Have been writing all day. Two companies have gone eastward, toward the South Fork of the Cheyenne. Will return to-morrow night. Gen. Custer, with five companies, starts southward to-morrow, for the

### SOUTH FORK OF THE CHEYENNE,

to be gone three days. Col. Grant and myself accompany him. We are exploring the passes thoroughly, and will know something of the Black Hills when we return.

MONDAY, Aug. 3, 1874.

Leaving the main portion of the command in camp, Gen. Custer, with five companies of cavalry, the Chief Engineer of the expedition (Col. William Ludlow), the writer, and others, started at 5 a. m. for the South Fork of Cheyenne River. His object was the exploration of the country in that direction, and to give the scout Reynolds, who was to carry dispatches to Fort Laramie, a good send-off by putting him 50 miles nearer his destination and outside of the Black Hills.

Moving south over the hill and dale, through a beautiful grazing country,—this whole region is

### Wonderfully Adapted to Raising Cattle and Sheep,—

we finally struck an old Indian trail, which we followed for 14 or 15 miles, until it finally led us through a pass out into the outlying hills beyond the main range of the Black Hills country. Pushing well out into these, we halted for a couple of hours to rest, and enjoy a thunder-storm, mixed with hail,—for the day was very warm, and the storm cooled the air perfectly.

Entering a deep ravine, we followed the course of a mountain-stream, which is not designated upon the maps, but which lies between Hat Creek and Horseherd Creek, and finally empties into the South Fork of the Cheyenne. Pushing on through brake and brier, we finally encamped near its mouth at 10.30 p. m., having made 47 miles since morning.

The last dispatches were written by the light of our camp-fires, and Reynolds started on his way, with our best wishes, a little after midnight, and, if no evil befell him, probably reached Laramie within thirty-six hours.

TUESDAY, Aug. 4.

Moved down  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles, to the South Fork of the Cheyenne, at 5 a. m. Found it a good stream of clear, running water, over a pebbly or gravelly bottom. Water running slowly, and, from indications shown, I am inclined to think that, in some places,

### IT SINKS IN ITS BED.

and rises again lower down, something like the Smoky Hill River in Kansas. Where we saw it, the banks were quite heavily fringed with cottonwood.

Left the river, and started up over the plains and foot-hills for our camp. Traveled northwest over a poor country until we reached the hills. Water was very scarce, and the day exceedingly hot. Had to abandon two horses, which gave completely out. Went into camp on a dry fork of the Cheyenne; found some good water in holes, though it was covered by a thick green scum. Grass good; wood in abundance. Distance traveled, 21 miles.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 5.

Reached Camp No. 26, at 12 m., traveling 21 miles northwest over a very pretty country of hill and dale, crossing several very pretty little creeks fed by springs gushing out of the hills.

Found all well at camp, but was a little disappointed to learn that the squadron sent out to the South Fork of the Cheyenne had returned without accomplishing its object,—the commanding officer giving as a reason that they had consumed nearly all their time in trying to find their way through a deep ravine, following a water-course which they thought emptied into the river.

CAMP No. 27, Thursday, Aug. 6.

Started on our return trip, via Bear Butte, Crow Creek, and the Little Missouri, at 4.30 a. m. Moved back on our old trail, passing Camp No. 25; thence moved away from the trail westward over some large hills, and finally encamped on a tributary of Castle Creek, where we found good wood and grass. During the night a very hard thunder-storm occurred. Distance,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  miles northwest.

## CAMP No. 28, Friday, Aug. 7.

Started at 4.30 a. m. back on former trail, passing Camp No. 24 in Castle Creek, and moved up and across Elkhorn Prairie, in a northerly direction, into a small valley with a beautiful stream of water running through it, up a long ravine, over some pine-covered hills, down into another ravine, crossing another creek, and along the bank of this creek six miles west, and thence north over a high ridge, and into camp on a good stream, with grass and wood in abundance.

Just as he was selecting the camp, Gen. Custer started up

**A LARGE GRIZZLY BEAR,**

which, with the assistance of Col. Ludlow and Bloody-Knife (a Sioux scout), he soon killed. It took five shots to bring him down; his weight was about 800 pounds. Distance made to-day, 16½ miles.

## CAMP No. 29, Saturday, Aug. 8.

Got off at 4.30 a. m., moving along the bank of the stream upon which we had camped, and moved away east of it, up a ravine, out on to a high rolling country, through an immense extent of "deadening,"—a place where the trees have been probably burned, and have then fallen or been blown down, crossing one another in every direction, with copses of young poplars here and there, sparsely covering the slate or sandstone which crops out in vertical ledges at the crest of the hills. The morning was so foggy that we halted a couple of hours until the sun dissipated it and enabled us to look out our course. Moved east into a small valley in which was a running stream, which we skirted for some miles; thence directly north up the hill into another deadening, across some stony, pine-covered hills, over another creek, and through some pine woods, into a small valley,—making camp at 9.30 p. m., after one of the hardest day's marches we have yet made in the Black Hills. Distance, 14¾ miles northeast.

## CAMP No. 30, Sunday, Aug. 9.

Moved at 4.45 due east along the bank of the creek upon which we had been encamped, passing three of the

**LARGEST BEAVER-DAMS**

I have ever seen; thence north, and again east, encamping upon a beautiful stream fed by an immense spring of the coldest water, save ice-water. I ever drank. Distance, 7½ miles east.

## CAMP No. 31, Monday, Aug. 10.

We are now engaged in finding a practicable route through the outlying mountains to the plains, and thence to Bear Butte. Have explored two valleys, but cannot find a good wagon-road. Will try another route to-day. Upon leaving camp at 4.30 a. m., we moved due south over a small hill into a fine valley, about half a mile wide, with a splendid stream of water running through it, and covered with the finest kind of grass. Moved down this valley seven miles along the creek, and went into camp at 12 m., where we intend remaining until the 12th inst., to give the engineers an opportunity to accurately determine the position of the principal peaks of these mountains; and to refit the command preparatory to our march to the Little Missouri River.

Gen. Custer and myself made a careful exploration for 12 or 15 miles down the creek, and found a

**GOOD WAGON-ROAD TO THE PLAINS.**

## TUESDAY, Aug. 11.

In camp all day, refitting. Sent forward two companies of pioneers to put the road in order for to-morrow's march. Day clear and beautiful; weather perfect.



CAMP No. 32, Wednesday, Aug. 12.

We have finally concluded that the stream upon which we have been encamped for the last three days is

### THE BOX ELDER,

although it runs in a more southerly direction, and heads higher than it is shown to do on the map. Moving down the bank of the stream, crossing it now and then as it cuts into the bank on either side, we finally encamped six miles below our morning's resting-place. We find an agreeable change in the foliage along the creek—elm taking the place of pine, and any quantity of hop-vines, in full bearing, running all over them. Just as we were unsaddling, a fine buck ran through camp, and no one dare shoot him for fear of hitting some of the men or horses. His temerity proved his safety, and, after our chagrin had subsided, we really enjoyed his feat. All along the route since we have been in the Black Hills, we have found and killed deer in abundance; also a few elk, and one grizzly bear.

CAMP No. 33, Thursday, Aug. 13.

Started at 2 p. m., and, crossing the Box Elder, moving east up the dry bed of a creek, which has forced its way through the limestone bluffs that just here loom up along the east bank of the stream in a solid wall, and pushed up on to an open prairie, or pass, about 100 feet above the creek, and, moving south along the bank, encamped just below where the Box Elder sinks in its bed and disappears entirely, though we followed the dry bed down stream for several miles. Capt. Reynolds, in his report of the country adjacent to the Black Hills, mentions this as a curious fact, stating that nearly all of the large streams running out of the Hills

### SINK AND DISAPPEAR ENTIRELY

before finally emptying into the Belle Fourche and South Fork of the Cheyenne.

Just as we reached camp to-night, one of the men of Company H, James King, died of typhoid fever. He will be buried in the morning.

CAMP No. 34, Friday, Aug. 14.

Started at 4 a. m., and moved directly east, across the outer range of mountains, finding a good road up on to their crest; thence across a very pretty, park-like country, and down a long divide, into a valley hemmed in by a few outlying hills of the range. Moved north for about six miles, finding some beautiful springs, and thence east across the foot-hills out on to the plains near the base of

### BEAR BUTTE,

where we now are. We all leave the Black Hills with regret, for we have enjoyed them very much. The scenery is beautiful, grass splendid, water fine, and climate delightful. I hope to see the day when there will be any number of brave settlers and fine farms there.

Distance marched, 25¼ miles.

CAMP NEAR BEAR BUTTE, Saturday, Aug. 15.

Went up the Butte this forenoon. Compared with the hills in the range, it is a pigmy, being only 1,140 feet above the level of the plains; but standing alone as it does, it looms up quite grandly, especially when first seen by parties approaching the Hills on this side.

To-morrow we start for Fort Lincoln, via the Little Missouri River, and hope to reach that post on the 31st inst., always providing Mr. Sitting-Bull don't interfere with our train.

## THE BLACK HILLS.

### How to Reach the Gold Fields and Grazing Region in the Black Hills Country.

(From the *Sioux City Journal*.)

The region known as the Black Hills is situated in Western Dakota, with their western slope stretching into Wyoming Territory, their southern extremity extending within fifty miles of the northwest corner of Nebraska, and their northern limits touching on Montana Territory. While within the Black Hills proper there is a vast extent of very rich grazing and agricultural lands, abundance of timber and of water, to approach them from anywhere in the Eastern States the traveler must pass through a strip of country varying in width, and generally destitute of water and vegetation. Taking Harney's Peak, near which the richest gold discoveries were made by Custer's miners, as our objective point, and measuring the distance as shown by the Government maps, we are enabled to furnish the following table of distances from important frontier points:

	<i>Miles.</i>
From Bismarck to Harney's Peak.....	251
From North Platte, Nebraska, to Harney's Peak.....	234
From Fort Pierre, Dakota, to Harney's Peak.....	163
From Cheyenne, Wyoming, to Harney's Peak.....	201
From Fort Randall, Dakota, to Harney's Peak.....	158
From Brule City, Dakota, to Harney's Peak.....	192

Of the six starting points above named, the route via Brule City, Dak., is the best and is really the only feasible one. Say, for example, a Chicago man desires to go to the Black Hills. He must travel by some one of three railroad routes, with distances respectively as follows:

	<i>Miles.</i>	<i>Fare.</i>
Chicago to Bismarck, Dakota.....	1,000	\$40 85
Chicago to Cheyenne, Wyoming.....	1,100	48 50
Chicago to Yankton, Dakota.....	560	19 65

A difference of \$20 or \$25 in railroad fare will be a weighty consideration with a man of small means going into a new country, and, of course, he selects the Sioux City and Yankton Route. Beside there are other reasons, still stronger, why he ought to, nay, why he must, come this way. Going into the mines he requires an outfit. He must have tools, provisions, bed-clothing, a stove, tent, etc.; and neither at Bismarck nor Cheyenne can this outfit be procured, while at either Sioux City or Yankton a man can, at all times, purchase any article of merchandise to be found in the Chicago market. There is another and still stronger reason why the Sioux City and Yankton route is the best—in fact the only feasible way for the immigrant to enter the Black Hills. On the route all the way there is an abundance of timber, water, and grazing, while, to approach the Hills from any other direction, either from Laramie on the south or Bismarck on the north, the traveler must pass over the timberless and waterless plains of Wyoming, or over the dreaded *mauvaises terres*, or bad lands,

of Dakota, From Chicago to Sioux City is only 509 miles. From Sioux City the traveler takes the Dakota Southern Railroad to Yankton. 60 miles; from Yankton to Brule City, 125 miles, he travels by steamboat up the Missouri, at a cost of \$2; and from Brule City to Harney's Peak, 192 miles, his route lies along the level grassy valley of White Earth River. Summing up the foregoing considerations, those intending to visit the Black Hills must inevitably be led to the conclusion that the best, cheapest, most expeditious, and the only feasible route to the Black Hills is via Sioux City, over the Dakota Southern Railroad to Yankton, and Brule City, Dakota, up White Earth River to Harney's Peak.

From Sioux City to the Black Hills, the traveling accommodation is fully equal to anything furnished in the East. The trains of the Dakota Southern Railroad are supplied with all modern railway improvements, while its coaches are models of elegance, comfort and cleanliness. The steamboat and wagon travel from Yankton will, we doubt not, be enjoyed by all lovers of the beautiful in nature and even by the dullest and most prosaic of travelers. The Upper Missouri River scenery has just acquired continental fame. From Yankton westward, the fast and elegant steamers run up the Missouri River through a country of the most picturesque, varied, and romantic scenery, through woods, hills, and plains, where the face of nature is tortured into fantastic shapes, as if to invite the admiration of the sight-seer.

From Fort Randall, on the Missouri River, Pratt & Ferris, post-traders, run a line of wagon trains to Whetstone Agency, within 50 miles of the Black Hills; and to travelers who have no teams of their own, this mode of conveyance is the safest, most expeditious and best.

# FROM BISMARCK TO THE BLACK HILLS

What an Old Frontiersman, who has Traveled  
over all Routes, Knows about it.

BISMARCK, D. T., Oct. 10, 1874.

*Editor Bismarck Tribune:*

So many refer to me for information concerning the Black Hills, that with your indulgence, I will give a brief sketch of the several routes suggested, and make such comparisons as seem to be called for to further the interests of those who at an early day will seek to reach the "New Eldorado."

Let me premise, however, by saying that I am familiar with all the routes, having been engaged for the past seventeen years in trading with the Indians, or freighting for the Government in connection with the Indians. I have traveled over all of the routes mentioned; have been on every side of the Black Hills, and through them, having accompanied Custer's expedition on its recent trip.

I give below a table, showing the distances in detail, via each route, and follow with a brief description of each, comparing them with the Bismarck route, which is preferable above all others:

## FROM YANKTON.

	MILES
To Ft. Randall, stage road .....	75—
" Old Whetstone Agency .....	30—105
" Forks of White River .....	150—255
" Forks of Cheyenne River, northwest .....	70—325
Up South Cheyenne to a point southeast or opposite Custer's Gulch .....	50—375
Northwest through the mountains to Custer's Gulch .....	50—425

## FROM CHEYENNE, U. P. R. R.

	MILES
To Fort Laramie, stage road .....	100—
" Niobrara .....	57—157
" Red Cloud's Agency .....	28—185
" Spotted Tail's Old Agency .....	26—211
" South Fork, Cheyenne .....	80—291
" Custer's Gulch, through mountains .....	56—347

## FROM COLUMBUS, Neb., via Loup Fork.

	MILES
To Niobrara River, traveling north .....	220—
" Spotted Tail's New Agency, on White River .....	50—270
" South Cheyenne, south of west .....	89—350
" Custer's Gulch, through mountains .....	50—400

FROM BOZEMAN, M. T.

MILES

To Crossing of Yellowstone River, wagon road.....	35—
" Big Horn (old Fort C. F. Smith), wagon road.....	150—185
" Big Piney (old fort Phil. Kearney), wagon road.....	95—280
" Powder River (old Fort Reno), wagon road.....	55—335
" Head of Dry Fork of Powder River.....	40—375
" Inyan Kara, traveling east, intersecting Custer's trail.....	75—450
" Custer's Gulch, following trail southeast.....	65—515

FROM BOZEMAN, via Bear Butte.

MILES

To Crossing of Yellowstone.....	35—
" Mouth of Tongue River (following down Yellowstone).....	180—215
" Powder River, traveling south.....	80—295
" Little Missouri River, traveling south.....	65—360
" Bear Butte, North Fork of Cheyenne.....	70—430
" Custer's Gulch, following Custer's return trail.....	40—470

FROM BISMARCK, D. T.

MILES

To Cannon Ball River.....	22—
" Battle Creek.....	28— 50
" Grand River.....	22— 72
" North Branch.....	25— 97
" Owl River.....	12—109
" South Branch.....	18—127
" Cherry Creek.....	23—150
" Cheyenne Forks.....	28—178
" Bear Butte.....	37—215
" Custer's Gulch.....	35—250

The route from Yankton passes immediately over the Sioux reservation, and in close proximity to several large Indian agencies; and the road from the Forks of the White River to Custer's Gulch will be extremely tedious on account of the dreaded bad lands through which it passes.

From Columbus, one would encounter an immense sand desert, lying between the head of the Loup and the Niobrara rivers, with no wood and a great scarcity of water; besides this route runs through the Pawnee reservation. After reaching and crossing the Niobrara, great sand hills, devoid of vegetation, stretch northward to the White River; and from White River on to the Black Hills the "Mauvais Terres," which are both dangerous and difficult, will be found.

From Cheyenne to Fort Laramie the road is excellent; but from the latter place to Red Cloud's agency, one would again encounter those desolate sand hills, running west, through which it is almost impossible to take a loaded wagon. Beyond Red Cloud's agency the country is very broken, and overrun by hostile Indians at all seasons of the year. This route also traverses the Sioux reservation from south to north, passing through Red Cloud's agency, and within fifty miles of Spotted Tail's agency. No other route can be had from Cheyenne, except via Fort Fetterman, which is fully as bad if not worse than by Red Cloud.

The route from Bozeman, by way of the abandoned old forts, is a good one—a wagon route, well defined, covering a greater portion of the distance.

The route from Bozeman, via the mouth of Tongue River, although covering an unexplored country, and holding out great inducements to prospectors, will be found difficult, and perhaps impracticable, for wagons, between the Yellowstone and Little Missouri.

The route from Bismarck to the Black Hills is much nearer than the route from any other point; one hundred and seventy-five miles nearer than from Cheyenne, on the Union Pacific, and one hundred and fifty miles nearer than from Columbus, Nebraska. This route is over a country well watered, and furnishing good grazing. Between Bismarck and the Black Hills there is not a foot of bad lands; besides it passes over neutral ground, ground not occupied or claimed by the Indians. It is as safe from Indian attacks as is the country between Bismarck and Fargo.

Many routes have been mentioned, but absolutely none present the advantages offered by the Bismarck route. At Bismarck complete outfits can be secured, and at as low rates as at any other point on the Missouri river.

It should be borne in mind that there are already two trails from Bismarck to the Black Hills, made by Custer's expedition; that a score or more of citizens of Bismarck accompanied the Black Hills expedition, who are familiar with the route, many of whom will accompany an expedition from Bismarck to the Hills as soon as the Government will consent to their occupancy.

I feel warranted in saying that this will be done in the spring, and that the abandoned forts in the Yellowstone country will be reoccupied.

JOHN W. SMITH.

BISMARCK, D. T., Sept. 24, 1874.

To George L. Miller, Editor Omaha Herald:

DEAR SIR—Having accompanied Gen. Custer's expedition to the Black Hills, and been a close observer of all prospecting and explorations, I deem it my duty, on account of former letters to your valuable paper, several years ago, and on account of my intimate acquaintance with the country adjacent to the Hills, on all sides, as well as for the benefit of old friends at Omaha, and on the line of the U. P. Railroad, to state, most positively, that the reported gold discoveries in the Black Hills are true, and that the report of Gen. Custer is not "flowery" or "exaggerated."

On the heads of streams flowing into the Cheyenne (south fork), from the north side, supposed to be Box Elder, Bill Gerry and Beaver creeks, we discovered surface diggings that would pay \$10 per day to the man. The gold was found in the grass roots, and grew richer and coarser as holes were sunk. In no case did we reach the "bed rock." Only three openings were made, and the greatest depth reached was six feet. From ten to thirty particles of gold were taken from each pan, and it was coarse and round. The indications were that it was much richer below, but we did not have time to examine the country, as the General was making great marches.

The formations on the north side of the range do not indicate the existence of gold, being composed of iron and sandstone; but, on crossing the summit, traveling southeast, we strike immense quartz mountains and ledges of granite and slate. There is an abundance of water; the valleys are confined, but very rich and numerous. The soil is a rich black loam, with an average depth of four feet. The pine is inexhaustible, and of good quality. The valleys and hillsides are matted with strawberries, cherries and raspberries. There are no indications of inundations; the valleys are as clean as a swept floor; no drifts or sedges. The grass is superior to that of Colorado, if possible. The streams abound in fish, but we did not see any trout.

It would be madness for parties to attempt to go to the new Eldorado this fall or winter. The Indians would certainly destroy them. I earnestly advise every one to keep cool until next spring, by which time, no doubt, all obstacles in the way of treaties with the unfaithful Indians will be removed, and an unobstructed road thrown open to all who wish to enter the country.

JOHN W. SMITH.

Speaking of the above letter, the Cheyenne *Leader* says: John W. Smith comes forward in a letter to the Omaha *Herald*, and gives the localities in the Black Hills where he found at least ten dollar diggings. The *Herald* vouches for Mr. Smith's veracity and integrity, and there are plenty of persons in this section of country who will do the same.

The Bismarck *Tribune* also endorses Mr. Smith as a gentleman worthy of confidence in every respect. Every practical miner who has examined the evidence set forth by the Messrs. Ross and McKay, the miners who accompanied Gen. Custer, are satisfied with the prospects.

## CHEYENNE TO THE BLACK HILLS.

[From the *Cheyenne* (Wyoming) *Leader*.]

As the forthcoming official report of Gen. Custer will fully establish the fact that the Black Hills country is rich with precious minerals, we deem it our duty to point out to those who intend to go to these new mines the safest, shortest, and most practicable way of getting there.

Cheyenne is barely 220 miles from the Black Hills via Fort Laramie and the Red Cloud Agency; it is not more than 200 miles, going direct from here to Red Cloud. At this agency there is a large military post affording protection to this frontier, and from Red Cloud to the Black Hills it is only 50 miles. The road from here to Red Cloud, either by Fort Laramie or the old Red Cloud Agency on the Running Water, or Niobrara River, is settled a good part of the way by ranches and stock men, so that *supplies, aid and protection can be had on this line to within fifty miles of the mines.*

Those who wish to go to the Black Hills can find no other route so desirable, in every respect, as this. Those living east, south, and west especially, will find it shorter, safer, and better than any other route. It is shorter for those living farther north, towards St. Paul, than the route via Bismarck. People from the Eastern States who go by St. Paul to Bismarck, will find that, after they have made the immense detour of travel required to reach Bismarck, their serious troubles are just to begin. From the latter place to the eastern base of the Black Hills, it is at least 300 miles, through what is known as the "Terres Mauvais," or bad lands of Dakota; utterly uninhabited, except by the most savage tribes of Indians, and completely unprotected the entire distance. From Yankton, the route, all wagon travel, is fully 550 miles, nearly the whole distance through a hostile country, affording neither supplies nor protection.

Bismarck is 500 miles northeast of Cheyenne, and immigrants going to the Black Hills via that place are liable to encounter the severe storms which make that latitude so undesirable in the fall and winter months.

From Cheyenne to the Black Hills it is only 200 miles, with good roads, a settled country, and military protection. Six days' easy travel from this city will take the miner to his place of destination. From Sioux City it will require nearly a month of hard travel, and from Bismarck almost as long, to say nothing of the danger from hostile Indians the whole distance.

Our readers have only to refer to any War or Interior Department map to be satisfied as to the truth of the statements here made as to distances, and as to this being the nearest point to the Black Hills—a point made easily accessible from all directions by the Union and Kansas Pacific Railways.

Cheyenne has facilities for outfitting miners and emigrants, superior to any other place along the Union Pacific Railroad. It is from this place that all the supplies are shipped for the troops at Fort Laramie, Red Cloud, and Spotted Tail, and large trains for these posts are constantly moving over the road. Regular weekly mails leave this city for Fort Laramie, Red Cloud and Spotted Tail, bringing postal facilities to the very door of the reported gold region. Altogether there is no other route proposed, that can offer anything to compare with the route from Cheyenne, so far as safety is concerned. The route up the Missouri River to Brule City or Fort Randall, as recommended by the Sioux City papers, is one

full of delays and uncertainties. Within a month's time the country between these points and the Black Hills is liable to be covered with snow from one to twelve feet in depth. \* \* \*

The route from this city is open the year round, with the best of roads, plenty of wood, water, and grass, and one other great consideration which no other route can offer—a line protected by military posts almost to the base of the Black Hills.

From whatever direction the tide of emigration may seek the new El Dorado, the road to the south, to Cheyenne, is bound to be the line of communication with the outside world. It is near two railroads, open at all seasons, and with mail facilities already extending to within 50 miles of the mines—200 miles nearer than any other postal communication.

The route via Bismarck is hardly worth considering; it is impracticable, except for large parties; it is exceedingly dangerous, much longer, and more difficult in every respect. No one would, in his proper senses, think of undertaking to go in that direction, when a shorter, safer, and better line is open to him. The road from here to Red Cloud (50 miles from the mines), is safe for everybody, no matter how small the party. It is traveled constantly the year round, by mail-carriers, army officers, and by immense freight trains. Arrived at Red Cloud, the miner is near his objective point.

The richest discoveries made by Gen. Custer were on the *southwest* and side of the Black Hills. The principal discoveries of gold were on the southwestern slope, in Wyoming Territory, near the table mountain called *Inyan Kara*. People approaching from the east side, may find precious minerals on that side of the Hills, but it is far more likely that they will have to pass around or through the mountains to the points indicated by Gen. Custer, before they are rewarded for their labors.

The above statement we are ready to substantiate by official reports of military officers who have been stationed in Wyoming and Dakota for years, and by the testimony of our old settlers, traders, and hunters, who have spent a lifetime in this section of the country.



# THE BLACK HILLS.

**Custer's Expedition—Its Line of March, and what it developed—Various Routes to the Region—Distance and Cost by each—The Gold Discoveries a Verification of Opinions expressed Fifteen Years ago.**

[From the *Chicago Tribune*, Sept. 2, 1874.]

Gen. Custer's expedition has returned. The glowing accounts of the beauty and the agricultural and mineral resources of the Black Hills country have attracted universal attention to that hitherto unknown section of the Union. Gen. Custer's dispatches, Gen. Forsythe's diary, and the reports of correspondents, all agree as to the facts above stated. Our Bismarck correspondent stated in yesterday's issue that Gen. Sheridan had not troops enough in his department to keep adventurous miners out of this new Eldorado.

## IN HIS EXPEDITION,

Gen. Custer took his line southwest from Fort Lincoln till he struck the Little Missouri, and thence, crossing over to the North Fork of the Cheyenne, entered the Black Hills from the northwest; and, passing through them, sent several parties to the South Fork of the Cheyenne. These two streams seem to embrace the entire Black Hills district. From the South Fork he turned northeast to Harney's Peak, in the vicinity of which

## GOLD WAS FOUND IN PAYING QUANTITIES,

even with the superficial prospecting the miners were able to give the country. Hence he pursued his way north to Bear Butte, and, exploring an important section of the Little Missouri, he returned eastward through Hart River Valley to Fort Lincoln.

With our present means of transit, the Black Hills can be

## MORE EASILY REACHED

than any of our other mining districts. Bismarck and Yankton, Dak., North Platte, Neb., and Cheyenne, Wyo., are all accessible by rail; and the distance from each to Harney's Peak is not very different. The *Sioux City Journal* gives the distances as follows:

	Miles.
Bismarck to Harney's Peak,.....	251
North Platte to Harney's Peak.....	234
Cheyenne to Harney's Peak,.....	201
Yankton to Harney's Peak, (our estimate).....	300

But Brule city, on the Missouri somewhere near the mouth of the White Earth River, can be reached by steamer from Yankton for \$2, and from Brule City to Harney's Peak is 192 miles.

The *Journal* gives

### THE EXPENSE AND DISTANCE FROM THIS CITY

to the points at the end of or on the railways, as follows:

	Miles.	Fare.
Chicago to Bismarck,.....	1,000	\$40.85
Chicago to Cheyenne,.....	1,010	48.50
Chicago to Yankton,.....	560	19.65

Of course the best and cheapest route to reach the mines will depend on the location of the adventurer at the time of starting. From all this section, and eastward, the most direct and the cheapest route, and in all respects the best,

### IS BY YANKTON.

The Bad Lands must be crossed from Bismarck; and, from the Union Pacific Railway northward, the country is by no means inviting. From Brule City the route is up the Valley of the White Earth, where an abundance of pasturage, wood and water can be found. Full outfits can be purchased at Sioux City and Yankton on reasonable terms. Were it not for the injunctions which the Sioux, and the Government as well, put upon emigrants, the mines could now be reached from Chicago in from

### SEVEN TO TEN DAYS AT MOST.

As the Government is responsible for the excitement sure to follow these important discoveries, an effort should be made as soon as possible to extinguish the Indian title, not only to the Black Hills, but also to the Big Horn Mountains and the adjacent districts. The latter lie west of the Black Hills; and the reports that they contain gold in large quantities, as well as the fact that it is found in the Black Hills, merely confirm the opinions given in these columns

### MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

When, in 1858 or '59, it became certain that Colorado was rich in gold, judging from geological data, we came to the conclusion that the great disturbances caused by the branching off from the main chain of the Rocky Mountains, of the range to the northeast that forms the south line of the Valley of the Yellowstone, must have developed in that range gold-bearing districts. The paragraph then published in these columns has received its fulfillment in this year of grace 1874. \* \* \*

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as VANT oversize Graff. 3420  
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VIEW OF SIOUX FALLS, D. T.,


65 Miles North of Elk Point.


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